

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3580
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004
PENDING EXCISE CASES
Chandel Shri Suresh;Singh Smt. Pratibha

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether nearly 50 thousand cases are lying pending with the central excise duty officers relating to central excise duty involving about 10 thousand crore rupees therein;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not settling the above cases and since when these cases are pending and the actual number of such cases as on date and the amount involved therein;
- (c) whether the parties having interests on the above cases are causing inordinate delay by resorting to procedural problems; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to remove these procedural problems ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (S. S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) & (b): As on 31.3.2004, 32968 cases are pending decision with the Departmental Adjudicating Officers and Commissioners (Appeals) involving an amount of Rs.12,004 crore (the said figures are provisional). While old cases are adjudicated, new cases crop up. Principles of natural justice have to be complied with in these proceedings. However, every possible effort is made for early decision of cases pending before the departmental officers and the Commissioners (Appeals).

(c) & (d): Parties do prefer the recovery proceedings to be delayed or postponed by resorting to various legal steps. Administrative and legislative steps, as considered necessary, are taken from time to time by the Department to expedite disposal of cases pending with the various Departmental Officers. Some of the steps taken include effective monitoring, revision of powers of adjudication amongst various adjudicating authorities, suitably increasing the number of adjudicating officers and Commissioners (Appeals) and empowering the Zonal Chief Commissioners of Central Excise to assign appeal cases within the zone to any Commissioner (Appeals) to facilitate early disposal.